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LETTER

TO THE

LORD ****

FROM

Eustace Budgell Esq;

Accomptant-General of *Ireland*, and
late Secretary to their Excellen-
cies the Lords Justices in that
Kingdom.

—*Summa sequar Vestigia Rerum.* Virg.

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A
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My LORD,

I HAVE received so many Instances of your Lordship's *Favour* and *Friendship* in *Ireland*, that I cannot possibly doubt of *either*. Your Lordship, in your last Letter, is pleased to express a very kind Concern for my being removed from the Place of *Secretary to the Lords Justices*. You say, my Lord, That considering some Service which you know I had the good fortune to do the Publick since my being in that Post, and the Honour I have of being so nearly related to Mr. *Addison* (a Gentleman who was lately Secretary of State in *Great Britain*, and who is so justly esteemed by all Men) you cannot help being surprized at this Proceeding. Your Lordship is so good to inform me, That it is commonly reported in *Ireland*, I left the Kingdom without Leave from the Lords Justices ; which, tho

your Lordship says you can hardly believe, you desire some Account of this Affair from my self, that you may not be wholly at a loss how to justify my Conduct. Lastly, your Lordship desires to know whether I intend to turn *Malecontent*, or whether my Heart is still full of that *Duty* and *Affection* towards his Majesty you have often heard me ~~so~~ *warmly* express.

I have of late received so many *Letters* from *other Persons* pretty much to the same Purpose with *this* from your Lordship, that I must confess I want *Time* to answer each of them particularly; I chuse therefore to address my self to your Lordship in this *Publick Manner*, since it was the *best Method* I could think of to do my self *Justice*, and answer *all my Friends* at once.

I am very sensible how indecent it is in *most Cases* for a Man to say or write any thing to his own Advantage; yet I think *some Liberty* of this kind has scarce ever been denied to Men when they were *borne hard upon*, and when their own *Vindication* made it in a manner *necessary*. I hope, my Lord, this Consideration will excuse the Account I am going to give of my first entering upon the Secretary's Office in *Ireland*, and Behaviour *in* it; especially since I shall confine my self to three or four naked *Matters of Fact* so very well known, and so *notorious* as to admit of no Dispute.



I was made *Under-Secretary* to Mr. Addison, and *Chief Secretary* to the Lords Justices of Ireland, soon after his Majesty's happy Arrival in Great Britain. Your Lordship very well knows that I succeeded Mr. Dawson, a Gentleman who was indeed a *most diligent Officer*, and perfectly a Master of all the Forms of Business relating to his Post. It was this Consideration which had continued him in his Employment for about nineteen Years successively, under Governours of very different Principles; since tho it was generally thought his *Heart* was with the Tories, it was as generally agreed that the *Publick Business* would suffer too much by his Removal.

There is scarce a Gentleman in Ireland who has not heard of the Difficulties I lay under at my first coming into that Kingdom: My Predecessor's Clerks, the *only* Persons who were acquainted with the *Business*, refused to serve under me; the very *Books of the Office*, out of which I was to learn and make myself Master of all the *Forms of Business*, were removed; nor was it without the utmost Difficulty, nor until I had several Hearings before the Lords Justices and Council, that I was allowed to have a *free Recourse* to them. Notwithstanding this, and tho I was obliged to work with Clerks who were *entirely* new to the Business, I made a shift to beat out my Way; and flatter my self
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that I cannot be charged with *any one Mistake* to the Prejudice of the Publick. I would not however be thought in this Particular to aim at giving your Lordship, or any one else, a more than ordinary Notion of my *Capacity*; every body knows, that to make a Man's self Master of the *Forms of Business*, there is nothing requisite but a great deal of *Diligence*. It is *this* alone which I conceive I may lay some claim to, having for almost *four Years* together been never absent from the Office as many *Days*, and having never been ten Miles from *Dublin* all the time I was in *Ireland*.

Within a Twelvemonth after my entring upon the Execution of my Employment, the *Pretender* landed in *Scotland*; and tho *Ireland* has formerly been the *Scene* of so many *Rebellions* and so much *Bloodshed*, yet such was the *Prudence* and *Vigilance* of the then Lords Justices, so great was the *Zeal* which all the *honest Gentlemen* of the Country expressed for his Majesty's Service, that every thing was not only kept quiet in *that Kingdom*, but they were enabled to send several Regiments to *Scotland*, which proved a very *timely Reinforcement* to the Army commanded by his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*.

The Hurry of Affairs was at this time so great in *England*, that we had sometimes Orders sent into *Ireland*, directing such or such a Regiment to be sent to *Scotland*,
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without ever mentioning the *Place* they were to *land* at: and tho while the *Transport-Office* subsisted, there was always some Person *particularly* commissioned to take care of the Embarkation of Troops upon such Occasions; and tho since *that Time* there has been a *Field-Officer* sent from *England expressly* on the same Account, yet in *this Crisis of Affairs*, tho the Charge of providing Shipping, &c. is *always* defrayed by *Great Britain*, there was *no Person* commissioned from this side of the Water to look after it: I was therefore commanded by my Masters, the then Lords Justices, to find out proper Owners of Ships to contract with them, &c. tho it was a Business *entirely foreign* to my Province. I did so, and will venture to affirm (for which I appeal to the Accompts in the *English Treasury*) that *never* were Forces before transported from *Ireland* to any part of *Great Britain*, at so *cheap* a Rate. I was so little versed in charging Money for *Extraordinary Services*, that I never either *demanded* or *received* one Farthing upon this Account.

About the same time, upon a Representation from the Lords Justices of *Ireland*, shewing to how much Danger the Kingdom might be exposed by the withdrawing so many of their Regular Troops, unless they might be permitted to supply their Places some other way, there was leave given

ven for them to raise the *Militia*, (an Expedient that had not been used in *Ireland* for above twenty Years before) which Sir *Constantine Phipps* had openly opposed, and laid it down for a *Maxim*, That it was next door to *High Treason*, and directly against an Act of Parliament.

There is no Gentleman who has been any time in *Ireland*, but must be sensible that the *Militia* of that Kingdom, consisting of above 30000 Men, is at this time very different from the *Militia* of *Great Britain*. It is almost incredible with how much *Spirit* and *Cheerfulness* the Gentlemen of the Country acted upon this Occasion: Some of them took so much *Pains*, and were at such an *Expence*, that I have seen a Company of the *Militia* which might have been almost taken for *Regular Troops*: and if what has been may be, or if we may form any Judgment from what the *Irish* Protestant *Militia* actually performed in the late Civil Wars, they are at present no small addition to the Strength of the Kingdom.

There was, however, one Inconvenience, which naturally arose from the uncommon Zeal of the *Irish* Protestant Gentlemen; viz. That while through a *Noble Emulation* each of them strove in a particular manner to distinguish himself in the Service of his *King* and *Country*, it became extremely difficult to regulate their several

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ral Pretensions to *Precedency* and *Command*. It was *this* that obliged their Excellencies the Lords Justices with an *indefatigable Diligence* to meet constantly every day at the Castle ; and at their rising I had frequently Directions to answer *thirty* or *forty Letters* by the next Post, which they had received from several Gentlemen in different Counties.

In *England* the Commissions for the Militia are *signed* and *issued* by the Lords Lieutenants of Counties ; but your Lordship very well knows that in *Ireland* they are all *signed* by the Chief Governour or Governours for the time being, *counter-signed* by the *Secretary*, and consequently are all drawn up in his Office, and issued through it. For this reason there is a very handsome Fee established by the antient Table of Fees in the Secretary's Office upon every such Commission ; and I can demonstrate to your Lordship or any body else, that had I taken these Fees at that time, my Share of them would have amounted to a larger Sum than I shall mention. But my Masters, the Lords Justices, having told me they were of opinion, since the Gentlemen of the Country got nothing by those Commissions, it would be pretty hard to *press* them for their *Fees*, I was so scrupulous in this particular, that I not only forbore to *press*, but when some Counties

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would send me up the Money, I returned it again; and to prevent the like Accidents for the future, took care to write a *particular Letter* to the Colonels of the Militia, Mayors of Towns, &c. to whom I sent down any Commissions: for the truth of which, I dare openly appeal to the Gentlemen of the Country, and can assure your Lordship, that I never would receive one Farthing, either as a *Present* or *otherwise*, for any *Commission* in the Militia.

The Lords Justices my Masters were however so sensible of the Zeal with which I acted, and the *Extraordinary Pains* I took on this Occasion, being obliged to sit up in the Office many whole Nights; that (tho never any Government was more *properly* sparing of *Publick Money*) their Excellencies resolved to make me a handsome Present, acquainted me with their Resolution, and ordered me to draw a Warrant upon it. I could not but be highly sensible of such a Mark of their Excellencies Favour, and returned them my Acknowledgments for it in the most humble manner; yet considering the *Common Danger* at *that time*, how heartily *every Man* in his respective Station was obliged to act for the *King's Service*, and how *low* the *Irish Treasury* was, I desired I might be excused from accepting it. The Earl of *Kildare*, then one of the Lords Justices (and who, your Lordship

Ship knows, is particularly distinguish'd for the *Love of his Country*, as well as for his *Benevolence* and *Humanity* to all who are near him) would not take my first Refusal, but gave me a *Day* longer to consider of it. At the expiration of *this time*, my Sentiments were the same as *before*, and I never received this Testimony of my Masters being satisfied with my Services, which I am sure I might have taken with *Honour*.

For my *Integrity* in the Execution of my Office in *general*, I appeal to a Resolution of a Committee of the *Irish House of Commons*, which passed *Nemine Contradicente*. The Occasion of it, your Lordship may remember, was this : When the thirteen new Regiments were raised in *Ireland*, the Commissions for them being all signed in *England*, the Officers found that they paid *more* for their Commissions, than they used to do when they were signed in *Ireland* by a Lord Lieutenant : This, added to the unhappy Aversion which some Gentlemen of the *Irish House of Commons* had conceived towards my Lord *Gallway*, made them fall *very warmly* upon the Lords Justices Secretaries, and resolve to examine in a Committee what Fees had been taken in their Office upon *any Occasion*, and by *what Authority*. When this Committee had sat several days, encouraged *all Persons* who thought themselves aggrieved, to make

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their Complaints, and examined into every Particular; even *those Gentlemen* who were at first prejudiced against us, were so thorowly convinced they had been *misinformed*, that they did us the Justice to come into a *Resolution*, which was carried in *a full Committee, Nem. Con.* That *the Fees which had been taken in the Secretary's Office were warranted by the antient Table of Fees in that Office, and LESS than had been taken by former Secretaries.*

Your Lordship cannot but be sensible how *much* this Resolution is to my advantage, since by my Post of *Under-Secretary* I was the *only* Hand who received *all the Money* paid into the Office: and there is *one Circumstance* that makes it still the more remarkable, *viz.* that it was well understood at *that time*, that could any thing in particular have been fixed upon *me*, it would not have displeased a *certain Person* then in power.

I know very well, my Lord, that what I have said may look so much like Vanity, that nothing could excuse my *own* mentioning these several Particulars, but my being removed from a Post, in which it has not been usual to change the Officer; and this in the same *Government* which I have some time served under. This is in the Court-Language to be *disgraced*; and indeed I believe most People at *first View* must

must imagine I have done some thing pretty extraordinary, to merit so *severe* a Treatment. Your Lordship therefore, and the World, will, I hope, forgive me, if I endeavour to put it out of the power of those who have taken away my *Place*, to deprive me at the same time of my *Reputation*. Your Lordship too will please to observe, that in my giving this Account of my Behaviour while I had the honour to serve his Majesty in *Ireland*, I have only mentioned such *Matters of Fact*, the greatest part of which your Lordship *knows* to be true, and which are of so *notorious* a nature, that every body who thinks fit may satisfy himself in them.

I proceed to give your Lordship an Account why I was removed.

Your Lordship is pleased to inform me, that it is commonly said in *Ireland*, I am removed for leaving *that Kingdom without Leave from the Lords Justices*; and I must acquaint your Lordship, that this is also what has been *industriously* spread, and what is generally believed on this side of the Water. I have hitherto remained silent, and suffered a *Falshood* to take its full Run, which I knew it was in my own power to detect, whenever I thought fit. I am therefore to acquaint your Lordship and the World, that this is so far from being

ing true, that having occasion to come to *England* upon some Affairs relating to my own Estate, I had my *Licence of Absence* signed in the usual Form by *both the Lords Justices*, before I left *Dublin*; which I have still to produce, under their Excellencies Hands. I was to take my leave of his Excellency Mr. Conolly at his Country-Seat, where he spent his *Easter*, and had his particular Directions relating to the Papers I was to leave with my Brother. My Licence was likewise signed by his Grace the Archbishop of *Dublin*: I waited upon his Grace *several times* after the signing it, before I left *Ireland*; and was particularly with him, together with my Brother, to receive his last Directions, till Eleven a-clock the Night before I embarked for *England*.

Having, I hope, fully satisfy'd your Lordship why I *was not* removed, I am now to acquaint you why *I was*.

I had the happiness to serve in *Ireland*, when two Gentlemen were first Secretaries to the Chief Governours of that Kingdom, whom the World generally allow to be Men of *Honour* and *Capacity*; I mean, Mr. *Addison* and Mr. *Bladen*. I had the good Fortune to give so entire Satisfaction to *both* these Gentlemen, that all the while they were *in* their Posts, and since they have

have been out, they have vouchsafed to give me constant and repeated Marks of their *Friendship* and *Esteem*. But notwithstanding this, I have had the misfortune to offend their Successor Mr. *Webster*. Before I acquaint your Lordship with the *Particulars* that made me so unhappy to incur his Displeasure, it may not be improper to give your Lordship some account of the *Man* himself.

Before his late Promotion, he was one of the *Under-copying* Clerks of the Treasury, sat at a *little Desk* in the *Outer Room*, and his whole Salary, together with the Perquisites of his Place, were thought to amount to about 200 *l. per Ann.* out of which he was to maintain *himself*, a *Wife*, *two Sons*, and a *Daughter*, who is generally said to be a *very pretty young Woman*. I need not inform your Lordship, that the Post of *Chief Secretary of State in Ireland*, is a Place of great *Honour*, *Trust*, and *Profit*. Your Lordship knows, that the Establishments of that Kingdom amount at present to between Four and Five Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* and that the Chief Secretary has not only most of the *Civil Affairs* in his Province, but is likewise *Secretary at War* to all the *Army* in the Kingdom, which generally consists of about 12000 Men. If a *weak* or a *corrupt* Man was put into this Post, it is certain that his

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Incapacity for Business would lead him into a great many *Blunders* and *Mistakes*, or that he might make very *advantageous*, tho very *improper*, *Bargains* for himself. All *Military Commissions*, from a *Colonel* to an *Ensign*, pass through his hands, are signed by his Master the Lord Lieutenant, and pretty much in his Excellency's Disposal. What by the *Death* of Officers, their *selling* quite out of the Army, or being allowed to *exchange* with one another, the Number of such *Commissions* signed within a *Twelvemonth* may be easily guessed to be very *considerable*. In a word, the Trust reposed in a Chief Secretary for Ireland has been thought so great, that it has hitherto been *always* conferred on Men remarkable for their *natural* and *acquired* Parts, their *Capacity* in Business, and such as have usually arrived to some of the most considerable Posts in *Great Britain*. The Secretaries since the Revolution, to the best of my remembrance, were Mr. *Pulteney*, Mr. *Prior*, Mr. *Southwell*, Mr. *Dodding-ton*, Sir *John Stanley*, Mr. *Addison*, and Mr. *Bladen*. These Gentlemen have the honour to see themselves succeeded by the present *Right Honourable* Edward Webster Esq; who from a *Copying Clerk* in the Treasury was within two Months made *First Secretary of State* for Ireland, a *Member of Parliament*, and of his Majesty's most *Honourable Privy-Council*

Council in that Kingdom. But as it is to be presumed all these Favours were not thought a *Recompence* adequate to his *Services*, he had shortly after the Reversion of a Post in *Ireland*, which may be modestly computed at 800 *l.* a Year, given for Life to his *two Sons*, who are *both* Infants.

It is certain nothing is so *commendable* and *praise-worthy*, as for a Man to *raise* himself by his own *Merit*, since it is *this* alone that ought to be the *best Pretension* to every Post. Hence it is we find, that when Men of *great Capacities* raise themselves from *mean Stations* to very *considerable Preferments*, they immediately draw the Eyes of the World upon them; while all who have any hopes of rising to the same Honours, are more particularly solicitous to observe and to imitate the most *conspicuous* of their *Virtues*.

The Post of Secretary of State for *Ireland* places a *Man of Parts* in a very advantageous Point of Light; a great number of General Officers, Colonels, &c. are forced daily to apply to him upon different Affairs relating to their several *Regiments* and *Commands*: and there is no doubt but these Gentlemen, who by having seen a great deal of the World, and keeping company with Persons of the *first Rank*, are for the most part very good Judges of Men, have now frequently the Happiness of admiring in the *Right Honourable Mr. Webster*, the

engaging Manner in which he *receives them*, his *Readiness* in *comprehending*, and *Dexterity* in the *Dispatch* of their *Affairs*. For my *own part*, I cannot doubt but he has a great deal of *Merit*, and *something about him particularly engaging*; tho it was my Misfortune to be removed by him from a Post which gave me frequent Access to him, before I was at leisure to be *thoroughly acquainted* with it.

It must be confessed, that *common Fame* (but your Lordship knows she is a malicious Baggage, and is *frequently mistaken*) gives a Reason for his Preferment, which is so little for his *own Reputation*, or for the *Honour* of his *Majesty's Affairs* committed to his Charge, that I am sure he will have *Good-nature* enough to excuse my not mentioning of it; and I shall therefore, without farther Ceremony, acquaint your Lordship with those Particulars which gave him offence, and were the *true Reasons* of my Removal.

The *first* was, my refusing to have his Favourite Mr. *Maddocks*, who now succeeds me, *quartered* upon me for 80*l. per Annum*. If this be denied, I have *two of his Letters* to produce, which will put it out of Dispute. I must own, having hitherto enjoy'd the *full Profits* of my Employment, I could not bring my self to sub-
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mit to this *honourable Condition*: besides, to confess the Truth, I could not be sure where such a Compliance might have ended. I resolved therefore, by a *flat Denial*, to put a stop to any Propositions of *this Kind* for the future; tho I was very sensible, by the Manner it was *press'd*, what would probably be the Consequence if I refused to *comply*.

Another Occasion on which I had the misfortune to offend this Gentleman, will require a little Explanation, to make your Lordship fully comprehend it.

The late *Reduction* of several Regiments has very much increased the List of *Half-Pay-Officers*; and it is not impossible but a farther Reduction of the Army may shortly still augment that *List*. His Majesty has been graciously pleased to declare, That as Vacancies happened in the *Standing Army*, they should be filled up with those *reduced Officers* who have served their Country with so much *Honour* and *Success*. This, together with some new Regulations lately made by his Majesty, in relation to the *buying and selling Commissions*, has made it extremely necessary that there should be an *exact Register* kept of the *Dates* of all Gentlemen's Commissions, whether they are in the *Standing Army*, or on *Half-Pay*. Mr. Craggs, while he was Secretary of War, wrote a Letter, by his Majesty's Command, to the Government of *Ireland* on *this*

Subject, and desired that very exact Lists of all Gentlemens Commissions who were in Regiments on the *Irish* Establishment might be returned to his Office. It has been the *constant* Custom, time out of mind, in *Ireland* as well as *England*, never to deliver out *any* Commission after it is signed, before such Commission is *first* entred in the *Secretary's Office*; by which means such Lists as were now required are at *any time* readily made, and a great many Disputes among the Gentlemen in the Army, relating to their *Seniority*, are very easily determined.

The Lords Lieutenants of *Ireland*, after they have been sworn, have constantly signed *Military Commissions* for the Army on that Establishment, tho they *themselves* have been in *England*; but as they do this by virtue of *that Power* given them by the Crown to act in *Ireland*, such Commissions, tho *actually* signed in *London*, have been *always* dated from *Dublin-Castle*, and have been constantly transmitted by the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary *here*, to the Secretary of the Lords Justices in *Ireland*, to be by him entred in the Office *before* they were delivered to the Agent of that Regiment to which they belonged.

Mr. *Webster*, for some *particular* Reasons *best* known to himself, resolved to deliver out such Commissions as he got signed here,
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either to such Officers *themselves* as should happen to be upon the Place, or to such Persons as they should send to *him*, without ever transmitting them, as *usual*, to be entred in the Office in *Ireland*. I thought it my Duty to represent to him, that this was altogether *unusual*, might hinder us from having the *Dates* of several Commissions in the Office, and occasion *a good deal of Confusion* in the Affairs of the Army; but tho my Reasons against it were *never* answered, my Remonstrance had no *Effect*. I could not guess at the *Meaning* of this, till some time after, I came to find by a Letter from his *private Clerk* to one of *my own Clerks* in *Ireland*, That upon every Commission which he had issued in the *Manner above-mentioned*, he had taken a *much larger Fee* than had been *ever* before received, than he *himself* had taken in *Ireland*, or than we could any way *warrant*. On this Occasion I *immediately* took the *Liberty* to acquaint him, That he could never *justify* such a Proceeding; that it must certainly, *at last*, draw a *Clamour* upon him from the *Officers of the Army*; and that for my own part, as I hoped I had some little Reputation, I was firmly resolved never to *demand* or *take* for any Commission which passed through my hands, more than the *legal* and *accustomed* Fee.

After *some Reasonings* on this Subject, and when one Lieutenant *Cunningham*, a Man of
good

good Sense, began to talk loud, I obtained his Permission to return again to the several Officers, as they came in my way, the Money he had taken from them *very improperly*. I had begun with *refunding* to the Lieutenant before I left *Dublin*, but have still a long List of other Gentlemen who were injured upon this Occasion, and to whom, tho they themselves were not so sensible of the Imposition, I shall also take care to return their Money. Your Lordship will doubtless be surprized to know, that even after this, the Commissions are still delivered out on this side of the Water, *contrary to Custom*; and I fear there will be a pretty deal of Confusion found one day in those Entries in the Secretary's Office of *Ireland*, which have been hitherto kept with the utmost Exactness. Might I presume to offer my humble Opinion to a Person so well skilled in *Military Matters*, that, as I am informed, upon his first entring on his Office, he undertook to instruct my Lord Cadogan in several Affairs relating to the Army; I should advise him to lay aside the Thoughts of this and some other Alterations which he is at present projecting for the Secretary's Office in *Ireland*, to let Business run in the same Channel it has continued time out of mind, and to consider that some of his Predecessors were at least as well-meaning Men, tho perhaps not so wise as himself.

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These *two* Affairs last mentioned, with some other Reasons of the same kind, made Mr. Secretary resolve to remove me as soon as possible. At first however when he got Leave for his Favourite Mr. *Maddocks* to act, I was *assured*, it should be *only* while I continued in *Great-Britain*; but at length, as the *Right Honourable Person* informed me himself, he got the D. of B----n to leave the *Regulation* of *every thing* in the Office *entirely* to him, upon which he acquainted me I was superseded.

I can say nothing of Mr. *Maddocks*, my Successor, but that as he is a Person of *no Fortune*, it is *very possible* he may not *dare* to give his Opinion upon things which I should always have thought my self obliged to do; but *terrified* by *my Example*, may be more *complying* on proper Occasions.

If it would not swell this Letter to too great a Bulk, I could give some very *particular* and *undeniable* Instances both of Mr. Secretary's *Capacity* for Business, and *Integrity* in the Execution of his Office. But as *these* could not be mentioned without all the *Circumstances* proper to explain them, and as it is not impossible but it may become *necessary* for me to take notice of *some* of *them* in *my own Place* in the House of Commons the next Sessions, I shall dismiss a *Subject* at present which I am not fond of.

Your

Your Lordship is pleased to say in your Letter, That you cannot but think Mr. *Addison*, who has so lately, while his Health permitted him, served his *King* and *Country* with so much Honour, must be able to protect the *nearest Relation* he has, and one *first* brought into *Business* by *himself*. In answer to this, I am to acquaint your Lordship, That Mr. *Addison* has waited both on the D. of B----n and his Secretary upon this Occasion; and being *fully convinced* that I have done *nothing* unworthy the *Honour* I have to be his *Kinsman*, and to have been made choice of for his *Friend* and *Companion* for *seven Years* together, could not but endeavour to interpose in my Behalf: but it unfortunately happens, that *his Interest* is much less at present with a certain great Man, than that of *the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary Webster*.

I have now, my Lord, given you such a *plain Account* of my Removal as will, I hope, make it altogether *unnecessary* for me to answer any other Letters upon *this Subject*, to be obliged to tell my own *Story* in *private Companies*, or to answer a multitude of *Questions* that I must otherwise have been perpetually troubled with. Your Lordship will please to observe that I have advanced *no Facts* but such as, should they be denied, I have *sufficient Materials* in my hands to *prove*.

If upon the Whole your Lordship should be of opinion, that I have been a little *hardly* used, there is *one Thing* that I must desire your Lordship will do me the *Justice* to believe, *viz.* That I have not lost my *Loyalty* with my *Employment* ; and that there is *no Usage, no Severity* capable of abating the *least* part of my *Duty* and *Affection* towards my *Royal Master* : No, my Lord, I have already tasted too largely of his Bounty, and have a Heart too sensible of his Favours, to admit *one Thought* of this nature : And I must confess, that your Lordship's seeming but to doubt whether I am the *same* in this Respect that I was formerly, has given me no small Uneasiness.

It is very possible that *this Letter*, as it *chiefly* relates to the Business of *Ireland*, may not find *many Readers* in *Great-Britain* ; but as it is likely enough to fall into *more Hands* in the Kingdom where your Lordship is, and where for some Years last past, in the Absence of the Lord Lieutenant, I have constantly had the Honour to act as *Principal Secretary of State* ; To shew your Lordship that I think of our King as I *ever* did, I shall *endeavour*, tho I must confess my self very *unequal* to the *Task*, to give your Lordship some Sketches of the Character of this *great* and *good* PRINCE ; and I shall the more readily do this, because your Lordship very well knows what *ungenerous Arts* have been

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used by some Men to misrepresent *his Majesty* to *his Subjects*; and that tho perhaps most People of any Fashion in *Great-Britain* have, by this time, had Opportunities of *undeceiving* themselves, yet that in *Ireland* those *Falshoods* and *Scandals* which were so industriously spread in the beginning of his Majesty's Reign, have made but *too much Impression* upon some *well-meaning People*, who have never yet been at the *British Court* since his happy Accession to the Throne.

I cannot help premising, That tho nothing is more usual than for *great Power* to fill the *Mind* with so many *vain Conceits*, that we have often seen a Person who has been thought a *good Man*, make a very *bad Prince*; yet such is the Flattery generally paid to Crown'd Heads, that they are no sooner seated in their Thrones, than they are celebrated for *Virtues* of which before they were never once *suspected*. It is no wonder therefore if the thinking part of the World are very cautious how they give credit to the *Eulogiums* which are so plentifully shower'd upon Monarchs. One of the most memorable Sayings of *Theophrastus*, which is handed down to us, is, that *We ought not to love Men first, and know them afterwards; but to know them first, and love them afterwards*. It was a very peculiar Happiness for the People of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*,

land, to know what sort of Prince his present Majesty would make, *long before* they had the Happiness to become his Subjects. He had for a long time before governed a Nation where he was *absolute*, with the same *Justice* and *Humanity*, as if his Power had been restrained by our own *Magna Charta*; it was this that gave him the *Assurance* to travel frequently twenty or thirty Leagues in his Electorate, only attended with a *single Servant*: His Heart, conscious of its own *Integrity*, told him, the *Affections of his People* were his *strongest Guards*; and that he need not be solicitous about a *Life* which it was the *Interest* of every Man in his Dominions to *preserve*. It was this that made him the *most beloved* of Princes, and drew *Tears* from the Eyes of a *whole People* when they found he was resolved to leave them: their Affections were indeed engaged to him by the *strongest Ties* of *Interest* and *Gratitude*. He had, by his Prudence and Fortitude, established the *Electoral Dignity* in his own Family, and brought the *Electorate* it self to be, both for *Riches* and *Power*, the Second Protestant State in all *Germany*. He is said to have perfectly well understood the *several Branches* of his *Revenue*, and to have managed his *Finances* with the same *Ease* and *Regularity* that a sensible Country Gentleman with us audits the Accounts of his Estate. I remember, soon after his

Majesty's Arrival, to have seen some Papers relating to the *Method of paying our Army*, and the *Nature of our Publick Funds*, which I was inform'd were translated into *French* for his *particular Use*, and by his *express Command*, and which plainly shewed, that he resolved at that time to make himself a Master of the *Detail* of those things in a *much greater Degree* than his Predecessors had done *before* him. *Personal Courage* seems to have been so hereditary to those of the House of *Brunswick*, that tho never Prince was possessed of it in a more *eminent degree* than his Majesty; one scarce knows how to call it a *Merit* in him. I am told, that the late Princess *Sophia*, when News was brought her of the Death of one of her *three Sons*, who *all* fell in the *Field of Battel*, and when the Messenger, in order to alleviate her Loss, was enlarging on the *gallant Manner* in which the young Prince had behaved himself, answered, with a Spirit worthy her Birth, *I believe what you say, Sir, but why so much Pains to convince me of what I could not doubt? Did you ever know a Man of our Family a Coward?* This last mentioned *Virtue*, added to *strong Sense*, has produced in his Majesty that *Steadiness* and *Firmness of Mind* so necessary to a Prince, and for which he is so remarkably conspicuous.

I know very well, that as there is no *great Quality* but may be transformed by Artful and Designing Men into some *Vice*, that has a very distant Resemblance of it; so that from this *Constancy* with which his Majesty adheres to his Resolutions, he has been represented by his Enemies as a Man of an hard and inflexible Temper: But these People would do well to remember, that none but Men of *weak Understandings*, or *passionate Tempers*, show an *Inconstancy* in their Actions, or are frequently forced to change their *Conduct*. A *weak* or a *passionate* Man, as he has too *great* and *quick* a Sense of a *present Danger*, or an *Injury* newly offered to him, when time has removed the Apprehensions of the one, or healed the Smart of the other, thinks no more of either. From hence we may observe, that the Actions of such Men are *rash* and *inconsistent*, that they either punish Offenders *too Rigorously*, or let them *wholly Escape*. The Manner in which his present Majesty acted upon the suppressing of the late Rebellion, was such as made his *Justice* and his *Mercy* equally conspicuous. How *good* and *gracious* a Master he is, and how easy to be pleased by such Persons as use *proper Methods* to *obtain* and *keep* his Favour, we may learn from the Treatment of his *Hanoverian* Ministers: These Men have served him with that *Honesty* and *Sincerity*, for which the

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German Nation are particularly *remarkable*, and which I fear we of this Island, who value our selves upon being so much more *Polite*, cannot mightily boast of: They have rose by just degrees to the greatest Preferments in the Electorate, have grown old in his Court, and have been, many of them, thirty or forty Years successively in his Service.

It is reported by such as have had the *Honour* and *Happiness* to know his Majesty longest, that he was never seen either *heat-ed* with *Wine*, or *transported* with *Passion*: And indeed if his Majesty had not much more *Temper* than some of our great Men who are about him, if he had not the *Art* of making use of their *good Qualities*, and the Goodness to wink at and pardon their *Failings*; in a word, if like that *Being*, whose *Vicegerent* he is, he was not graciously pleased to regard his *Servants* with much more *Favour* and *Kindness* than they look upon one another; I believe I might venture to assure your Lordship, we should soon see the *British* Court full of nothing but *Factions* and *Confusion*. Our Ministers are *literally* obliged to *thank* his Majesty for their *Preservation*, as well as *Creation*.

Having hitherto considered his Majesty in the most *publick* parts of his Character, I cannot forbear saying something of his *Person*, and *Manner of Life*, since your Lordship

ship knows, that even these have been misrepresented by his ungenerous Enemies.

His Majesty's Stature is of the middle size; As he has been guilty of no Excess to impair his Constitution, his *Gait* is *firm* and *manly*, and his *Shape* of that *happy* and *just Turn*, which usually gives a *Grace* to all a Man's Actions, and with which it is impossible any one bred in a Court can appear *awkward* or *ungenteel*. His Majesty learnt all his Exercises when he was very young with great Applause under the *best Masters* of the Age, whom the late Princess *Sophia*, the most accomplished Woman of her time, took care to procure: He never appears at present to more *Advantage*, than when he is on *Horseback*, but in his *more youthful days* was thought to dance with the best Air in the World. His Face has indeed nothing in it of that *uninformed lifeless Beauty* with which the *French* represent their *Petits Maitres*, and which we may sometimes observe even in the Pictures of their *Heroes*: His Majesty's Countenance is *Masculine* and *Comely*, his *Look* entirely like an *Englishman*, and such as would make the generality of his Subjects take him at first sight for one of the *better Sort* of our own *Country-Gentlemen*; but upon a *nearer View*, we find an *Air* diffused over his whole Countenance, which gives such a *Gladness* to his *Eyes*, and such a *Beauty*

ty to every part of his *Face*, as I know not how to express : It is not the Result of any *particular* Feature, nor indeed of *all* the Features together ; but seems to be an immediate *Emanation* from his Soul, fill'd with *noble Sentiments* and *Humanity*. Sir Godfrey Kneller confessed to me, that he was unable to *catch* this *Air* (so visible to all who see the King) tho he had tried at it with his *utmost Skill* : so that your Lordship must not expect to form the *least Notion* of it from any of his Majesty's Pictures.

Such is the *Person* of our *King*; nor is it in the least to be doubted, but that should his Majesty's Affairs allow him to take a Progress through his Dominions, *Faction* and *Prejudice* would fly before his *Face*, and thousands of his Subjects grow loyal, while they *beheld* him.

I proceed to give your Lordship some Account of his *Manner of Living*.

His Majesty has not yet suffered himself to be debauched by the *Luxury* and *Sloth* of our *English* Nobility : He rises *early* in a Morning, and has three or four Hours to himself to *think* of the Business of the Day, before *any* of his *Ministers* come near him, Between Eleven and Twelve the *German Ministers* have their Audience, and lay before him such Business as relates to the *Electorate*. About One a-clock the *British Ministers* generally come to Court, and
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when the *Publick Business* of the Day is dispatched, any other Persons of Distinction may *desire* and *obtain* an Audience. On those Days when his Majesty does not dine in *Publick*, he usually eats *alone*; and is generally the whole Afternoon by himself, which he passes either in finishing his own private Dispatches, &c. or taking the benefit of the Air in the Gardens of his Palace. I have described to your Lordship his Majesty's *daily Course* of Life, from which he seldom or ever varies, but on some *extraordinary Occasions*, such as Council-Days, &c. And I believe I may venture to affirm, that he spends more Hours in Business most Days of his Life, than *any one Minister* about him. He is enabled to this by that good *State of Health* which has been the *Effect* of his *Temperance*, for I cannot learn that his Majesty has taken any other Physick, since his Arrival in *Great-Britain*, than the Waters of *Pyrmont*, a Place in *Westphalia*, which he used to drink for five or six Weeks together every Summer, and which give no *Interruption* to *Business*.

On *Publick Nights*, after having appeared in the *Drawing-Room*, and talked or plaid at Cards with the Ladies, his Majesty goes to Supper, either with some of his Subjects abroad, or a select Company of his most familiar Acquaintance; and it is at *this time* chiefly, that he *unbends* his Mind from

Publick Cares, and is a most *amiable Companion*, as well as a *great Prince*. I have been informed by some who have had the Happiness to enjoy his Majesty's Company in these his *freer Hours*, that either the *strongest Sense*, or a Vein of the *finest* and most *genteel Raillery* is apparent in whatever he says. I believe it is *strictly true*, that no Prince of *this Age* has said so many of those things which the *French* call *bons Mots*, or *witty Sayings*; and if it were not too great a *Presumption* in a *Subject* to repeat any part of the private Conversations of his *Prince*, I believe I could mention some of these which I have had from *good Hands*, and which those Men who value themselves most upon *Wit* and *Humour* in his whole Dominions, would have been *vain* to have been the Authors of. I could mention an Answer, which I cannot doubt of, that his Majesty made to one who was giving a very *mean* Character of that *unhappy Person* who pretends to the *British Crown*, which would be sufficient to make our *Jacobites themselves* no longer *hate* his *Person*, tho it must add to their *Despair* of overcoming a *Prince*, who is too *generous* to hear the *Failings* even of an *Enemy*, made greater than they are.

As his Majesty is a *Lover of Musick*, and a *good Judge of Theatrical Representations*, he frequently appears at our *Plays* and *Opera's*,

ra's, and by this means gives an Opportunity to such of his Subjects to see him, whose *Business* and *Employments* do not call them to *Court*.

The *English*, who have a Genius for *improving* whatever Hint is given them, have, since the Duke *D'Aumont* left *London*, brought *Masquerading* to the highest degree of *Elegance* and *Perfection* that *Diversion* seems to be capable of. To be *unknown* in a Company, is next to being *invisible*: His Majesty has been sometimes pleased to *lay aside* the King, and mix in these Assemblies, where he could *best* judge of the *Humours* and *Genius* of his Subjects, while they *spoke* and *acted* without any *Awe* or *Constraint* in his Presence.

Such is the KING, my Lord, whom we have the *Happiness* to obey: *Wise* in his *Counsels*, *Brave* in the *Field*, *Resolute* in his *Undertakings*, and *Graceful* in his *Person*; a *Kind Master*, a *Steady Friend*, and an *Amiable Man*; *Constant* and *Regular* in his *Application* to *Publick Business*, never *Heated* with *Wine*, or *Ruffled* with *Passion*; *addicted* to no *Excess*, nor taking any *Diversions*, but such as are *Rational* and *Manly*.

If we do not shew we know how to value such a Prince, whom we our selves *courted* to accept the *Crown*, we shall become a *By-word* to the Nations round about us, and our *Humours* may, with *Rea-*

son, be said to be as *various* and *uncertain* as our *Climate*. It is to be hoped therefore, that in our several Stations, we shall *all* do what in us lies, to make his Government *Easy*, and his Administration *Honourable*; that we shall behave to his Majesty after *another Manner* than we did to his *great Predecessor*, the late King *William*, who, as I have been credibly informed, was so heartily tired with continual Instances of *English Inconstancy*, that he had once taken a Resolution of returning again to *Holland*, and to give us up to our own *Inventions*.

If your Lordship should have observed any *wrong Steps* to have been taken since his Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne, you may rest assured that, probably speaking, they cannot *long* escape the Discernment of so excellent a Prince.

If at any time Posts of *Honour* and *Profit* have been *very oddly* bestowed, your Lordship may be assured it has either been without his Majesty's Knowledge, or that he has been *imposed* upon by some *unfair Representation*: And having mentioned this last Particular, I cannot forbear adding a word or two, to shew upon how many Accounts it is for the *Honour* and *Reputation* of his Majesty's Affairs, and the *Publick Service*, that all Preferments, whether *Civil* or *Military*, should be conferred on *proper* and *deserving* Persons. It was one of the *greatest Blemishes*

Blemishes which was cast upon the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, and which more particularly *alienated* the Minds of the Royal Party from him, that when the Services of those who stuck close to their Principles in the worst of Times, ought to have been rewarded, some of the *greatest Employments* and *most considerable Grants* in the Kingdom were, by the *Corruption* or *Negligence* of his Ministers, bestowed upon *Panders* and *Catamites*.

The long and expensive *War* which we are but just come out of, the *heavy Taxes* we have lain under, and the *Expences* which some amongst us may be said to have been at, more particularly for *supporting* the *Interest* of his present Majesty, at a Time when the Protestant Succession seem'd *doubtful*; has made a Post in the Government a very *seasonable Addition* to the broken Fortunes of many Gentlemen. While so many Men therefore of *Honour* and *Capacity* have occasion for such *Favours* from the Crown, it would be a very great *Hardship*, not to say a direct *Injustice*, at *this time* especially, to fling them away on *worthless* and *undeserving* Persons. When a Man of *Merit* is preferred, the List of such Persons, not over-large in it self, is still lessened; and those who stand next to him may reasonably hope to have their Turn: but if Men of *another Cast* be allowed to step in before them,

them, it must be no small Discouragement to them to continue their *Integrity*, and proceed in the Paths of *Virtue* and *Honour*: Since his Majesty therefore cannot as yet be supposed to be acquainted with the *true Characters* of many of his Subjects, it is most certainly highly incumbent on those about him to give him honest Advice on this Head, and to take the best Care they can that his *Favours* and *Preferments* may be properly bestowed. A Man ought not too hastily to be allowed to carve for himself, nor his Capacity taken upon *Trust*; since, for want of some Caution in this Particular, a Man may be made a General Officer, tho he never saw a Camp, or a *Secretary*, tho he can neither *write English*, or even *spell*. The *Methods* also by which Men aim at Preference, are undoubtedly to be considered, since one who can think nothing too *infamous* to come at a Post, will probably think nothing too *scandalous* to get Money when he is in it. I might add, that the advancing *improper Persons* to Posts of Honour, does, in a manner turn Government itself into *Ridicule*; and your Lordship must confess that it would be enough to sink the Dignity of the Bench, or of the *most honourable* Body of Men our Constitution is acquainted with, should a Buffoon be made a Judge, or a *Pimp* a *Privy-Counsellor*.

I find this Subject, were it handled as it ought to be, would soon swell my Letter to too large a size, when it is time I should think of concluding. I am very sensible, my Lord, that I have said some things in the *former part* of it, which may expose me to the Resentments of *the Right Honourable Mr. Webster*; and that if this most Honourable Gentleman's Interest is strong enough at Court, I shall be in very great Danger of losing my *Accomptant's Post*. Your Lordship knows that this Employment, which is but barely four hundred Pounds *per Ann. Irish Money*, out of which I am obliged to pay two Clerks, is the *only* thing under the Government I am now possessed of, and the *only Favour Mr. Addison*, while he was *Secretary of State*, presumed to ask for his *nearest Relation*; but whatever happens, while I am Master of an Estate, which, thanks be to God, sets me above Want, and while I have any Reputation to lose, I shall never be afraid to speak *my Thoughts* with that *Freedom* I was born to, as an *English Gentleman*.

I cannot conclude, without returning your Lordship, and all those other Gentlemen who have honoured me with their Friendship in *Ireland*, my most humble Thanks in this publick manner for their many Favours and Civilities: I shall constantly endeavour to preserve a most grateful

ful Sense of them, and must confess I have met with but very little of that *Aversion to the English*, so much talked of by some People. Sure I am, that *such Men* as should endeavour to create any Misunderstanding between the two Nations, or to make the one affect an *Independency* on the other; would be some of the *worst Subjects* in his Majesty's Dominions. When our *Patriots*, who seem now to be chiefly taken up with Affairs *abroad*, shall be more at leisure to look *at home*, I am of opinion that *many things* may be done equally for the Interest and Advantage of *either Kingdom*. The Protestants of *Ireland* are a *Brave* and *Loyal* People; they have already felt some of the happy Effects of his Majesty's Government; the Price of their Land is at least raised *one Year's* Purchase since *his* Accession to the Throne: They have so diligently applied themselves to the Improvement of the *Linen Manufacture* (which *England* both in *Honour* and *Interest* is obliged to support them in) that it may in time make them some amends for the Loss of their *Woollen*. We may hope, from *many Reasons*, to see *Ireland* in a few Years a *Rich* and *Powerful* Island. I had been there but a little time, when I was so far from having that mean Opinion either of the *Country* itself, or the *Understandings* of its Inhabitants, which some People

People affect to shew, that I resolved to do my best, towards giving the World *An Exact and Accurate History* of that Kingdom, which I think we want. If my Capacity be not equal to the Undertaking, this Defect will in some measure be supplied from my having had greater *Assistances* than *any other Man* whatever ; since by virtue of my several *publick Employments*, I have had a *constant* and *free Access* to the Books of the *Paper-Office* and *Custom-House*, and to all the *Proceedings* of the *Privy-Council*. I find indeed, that out of *these last*, might have been collected the best History of the late Times, and that the Loss of those Books, which were burnt with the Council-Chamber in 1711, is very much to be lamented.

Your Lordship has already *seen* and *approved* some of the Materials which I have collected for this Work ; and I am obliged for several very useful Hints to his Grace the Archbishop of *Dublin* : I must endeavour to get the *best Lights* I can into such things as happened *before* I knew the Kingdom, but shall think I cannot be too *particular* either in the *Characters of Men* or *Account of Things*, for such time as I either *have been* or *shall be* any ways engaged in *Publick Business*. One thing I shall venture to assure your Lordship, That I will not *flatter* any *Great Man*. I was never a

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mighty Admirer of *Panegyrick*; and that Acquaintance I have had with Mankind has convinced me there are but *very few* Occasions for it. I have often thought that no Man was capable to give a *true Account* of Things, who *was not* a little *engaged* in them himself; and that none but a *Madman*, who *was*, would ever give such an Account, whilst he was within the reach of the *Heroes* of his *Story*. To confess the truth, my Lord, I must frankly own, that while I had Thoughts of publishing this Work within a *few Years*, I found some *distant Hopes* or *Fears* of what might possibly affect my own Interest insensibly cast so many false Colours on what I wrote, that upon reviewing it I could not but blush myself, to have it intitled an *History*: I have therefore long since resolved, that it shall not appear in publick, till the Writer of it is no more. However, as I am *too far engaged* in the Design to *desist* from it, I thought it necessary to give this *Publick Notice* of it; since when I return to *Ireland*, I am likely to have *much more Leisure* to prosecute it, than when I was *last* there: and if any Gentlemen shall think it worth their while to furnish me with any *Original Papers*, or other *Proper Materials*, I shall acknowledge the *Obligation*, and make the *best Use* of their Favours I am able.

London, Octob. 2
1718.



I am, my Lord, &c.

